Dear Esther,

10/23/75

Your letter came when I was in the hospital with a bad case of phlebitis. I've been home less than 2 days & spend almost all my time on my back. I respond when it is awkward and other things I should do go because your letter seemed sincere and because of the high regard I have for you & your professionalism.

When you did not send the CBS suit papers as you said you would I sent for a Xmx & delivered them to me on his way to keeping an out-of-town lecture engagement for me. I read them, never with the full use of both hands and mostly with no use at all of the one with which I write. When my left-handed efforts were as tedious as they were illegible I switched to just making marginal marks.

If you really do want to discuss this I'm willing. But unless I have this urged you badly I encourage you strongly not to until after the show is aired. I say this in your interest. Time is better served when there is so little else I can do. Frankly, I have difficulty believing that you read and fully understood those papers.

By now you know a little about me & the way I think & work, if not as clearly as perhaps what motivates me, which is not unwritten in your inclusion. So, I suggest that if & when you do want to discuss this, let us both have the same papers before us. I will be specific as I could not be when I wrote Rather, who was not courteous enough to respond.

Until then it should be obvious that one who has any thing to sell, most of all books on a topical subject, does not reject coast-to-coast prime time TV attention without awareness that the decision is costly. Unless you think I'm crazy, can I be other than sincere?

On questions of accuracy of perception, soundness of (impersonal) judgement as well as principle I will face any confrontation, including the utterly improbable CBS' stable of lawyers.

Can it be that TV people are stamped - offended - that there remains one who regards other considerations as more important than being on TV?

How can I explain Rather's discourtesy & bad manners? I was courteous to him & all of you. I let him/all of you know immediately I took time in which I am not paid to treat CBS decently. It pays all its people & is well staffed for correspondence. I gave up other work to do this, too. For all his pontification about principle who the hell does he think he is to behave this way like a churlish, self-important brat? This is not an expression of pique. I am not insulted. But I am disappointed. Despite his 1967 record that, foolishly, I thought he'd outgrown. I'm ready for 1967 confrontations, too, especially on "scientific test" Nothing planned. Best wishes to you. Harold